Ao no Fuuin
蒼の封印
9
Chie Shinohara
篠原千絵
Shocomi Flower Comics

Ao no Fuuin 9

The Story so Far...

Ever since the day Soko transferred schools, strange things have been happening and a mystery man has been following her around. That man introduces himself as Akira, the "Byakko of the Family of the West", and says it's his duty to kill Soko, who's "Souryu of the Family of the East".

Soko didn't believe she was a man-eating Oni, but she wound up devouring people while being chased by the Family of the West...! In order to know who she really was, Soko traveled with Akira to Kinasa, where she found out several things.

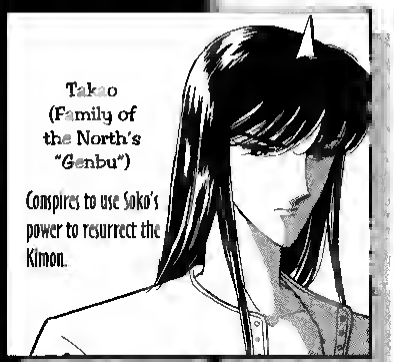
The Family of the West was originally part of the Kimon. The other families were the Family of the South, ruled by "Suzaku", and the Family of the North, ruled by "Genbu". Long ago, when the last chief of the Kimon, Rago, perished, some of her hair was left behind. From that hair a number of Rago clones were resurrected. And the Family of the West, when they mingle with the other families, cause the other one's power to vanish...

When Soko and the others find all this out, the High Priest of the Kimon appears and a violent fight begins. Takao cloned Hiko, and by controlling Soko, created a large number of Oni. The resurrection of the Kimon draws near.

However, the Family of the West takes Soko back, and heads to the Oni's sacred land, their refuge, in order to destroy the Kimon. Mayumi joins the party in order to bear Akira's child, and Soko's heart grows confused...

They finally come upon the refuge, but are blocked by a horned beast and can't open the door. Soko risks her life in a counterattack, but Takao was there waiting for them...!

Characters



Takao (Family of the North's "Genbu")

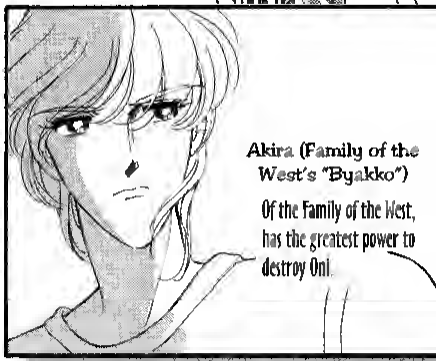
Conspires to use Soko's power to resurrect the Kimon.

Soko Kiryu (Family of the East's "Souryu")

Chief of the man-eating "Kimon", the rebirth of Rago. She loves Akira and wants to live the life of a normal high school girl.

Hiko

Soko's younger sister, who Takao cloned. Wants to be Chief of the Kimon.



Akira (Family of the West's "Byakko")

Of the Family of the West, has the greatest power to destroy Oni.

TAKA...O...
WOBBLE
AND HERE I'D FINALLY CAUGHT THE DEMON MASK
ATTEMPTING THE IMPOSSIBLE AGAIN, SOKO?
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE YOU WON'T DIE, BUT I'LL FEEL LIKE YOU ARE

FLIP
SLAM
AH!
SOKO!!

TYROS
TAP
UGH!
SOKO!

TAKAO!
SOURYU HAS FINALLY RETURNED TO OUR STRONG-HOLD
BEYOND THAT, NOTHING MATTERS
I WON'T LET YOU TOUCH HER AGAIN!
AHH!
ザシュ

BO
OM
DID YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU'D GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE?
YOU MAY HAVE ESCAPED FROM YOUR MANSION IN TOKYO, BUT THIS IS OUR LAND.
I CAN'T HOLD THE WEIGHT!
GHG...
ZZZT
ZZZT
ZZZT

STOP IT, TAKAO!
LET GO, SOKO!
GRAB
AKIRA...!
SIS?!
FWIP
AHH!
TEAR

TAKAO, OPEN THE DOOR TO THE REFUGE!
YOU KNOW THE INCANTATION, DON'T YOU?! MAKE THE DEMON MASK OPEN THE DOOR!
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL KILL HIKO!
I'M NOT BLUFFING! I'LL KILL HIKO AND THEN I'LL KILL MYSELF!

SIS...?
SOKO!
THAT...
IS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM
FLARE

SCRAM
HIKO, THIS WAY!
SOKO!
!!

GAAAHH!
MOVE IT!
ZZZZST
ZZZZST
ZZZZST
ZZZZST
ZZZZST
HURRY AND FIND THEM!
YEAH... BUT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT SOKO'S WOUND!
WE CAN MAKE HIM OPEN THE REFUGE.
IF SOKO CAN KEEP HOLD OF HIKO, TAKAO WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO DO AS WE SAY!
LORD TAKAO!
TRACES OF BLOOD!
FORGET ABOUT THE BYAKKO!
GO LOOK FOR SOURYU AND SUZAKU FIRST!

THE BLOOD STOPS HERE?
KEEP LOOKING! THEY MUST BE NEAR HERE!
I'M SORRY BUT JUST DO AS I SAY, HIKO...
EVEN HURT LIKE I AM, I'M STILL STRONGER THAN YOU ARE
I'M BLEEDING TOO MUCH... I'M STARTING TO GET DIZZY
I HAVE TO MEET UP WITH AKIRA BEFORE I PASS OUT...
GRAB

THEY FOUND ME!
THERE'S BLOOD RIGHT OVER THERE!
OH!
HEY, OVER THERE! BLOOD!
PLEASE DON'T LET THEM FIND ME!

THIS WAY!
?!
BEHIND THERE!
THE DEMON MASK?!
HIKO, THIS WAY!
FWIP
GRAB
JUST STAY RIGHT THERE, HIKO.

HIKO?
SIS...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND THE FAMILY OF THE WEST?
YOU LET YOURSELF GET STABBED, AND SWORE YOU'D KILL ME
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO MAKE SOMEONE AS INDECISIVE AS YOU GO TO SUCH LENGTHS

I CAME ALONG...
TO SLEEP WITH AKIRA AND BEAR HIS CHILD
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'VE ACCEPTED YOU, YOU KNOW
BUT THAT'S NATURAL. HUMANS ARE NOTHING BUT FOOD TO US
I DON'T GET WHY YOU'D WANT TO BE HUMAN...
I...
NO MATTER WHAT, I CAN'T ACCEPT A LIFE SUSTAINED BY FEEDING ON HUMANS
AND...

AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE BYAKKO.
YES... I KNOW, CIRCUMSTANCES WON'T ALLOW IT, AND IT'S EVEN PAINFUL FOR ME.
HOWEVER, I'VE CHOSEN TO STAY WITH AKIRA
...BUT I HAVE TO DO THIS.
HIKO, I'M NOT GOING TO ASK YOU TO UNDERSTAND ME.

I SWEAR I'LL DESTROY THE KIMON!
I... I WANT TO BECOME HUMAN!
HUMAN, SO I CAN BE WITH AKIRA!
UGH—!
THROB
SO, THIS REFUGE—

YOU'RE SO SELFISH
GHG...
YOU'RE SELFISH
SOURYU OR NOT,
DRIP
THAT'S WHY...
I WANT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE AS SOURYU
JUMP
HIKO!
I'LL KILL YOU!!

AHH ...!
AKIRA!
SOKO, ARE YOU OKAY?!
WOBBLE

TAKAO!
IF YOU DON'T OPEN THE REFUGE NOW, I'LL CHOP OFF SUZAKU'S HEAD!
GRAB
SOKO! HIKO!

TAKAO!
NOW, TAKAO ...
GIVE THE DEMON MASK THE INCANTATION!
SURELY, YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE ONE OF THE FAMILY OF THE EAST!
SOKO
SOKO, TAKE MY ENERGY
I'M FINE! WORRY ABOUT ME LATER!

SOKO!
クレイド
I'LL BE FINE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
TAKAO... OPEN THE DOOR!
.....

DRIP
DRIP
FOLLOW ME...
TAKAO

CLOMP
!!
HERE
THIS IS THE GATE THAT LEADS INSIDE

TAKAO, OPEN IT..!
WHOA...
IT'S A MONOLITH...
DEMON MASK, OPEN THE DOOR.
I WILL SPEAK THE DARK INCANTATION...

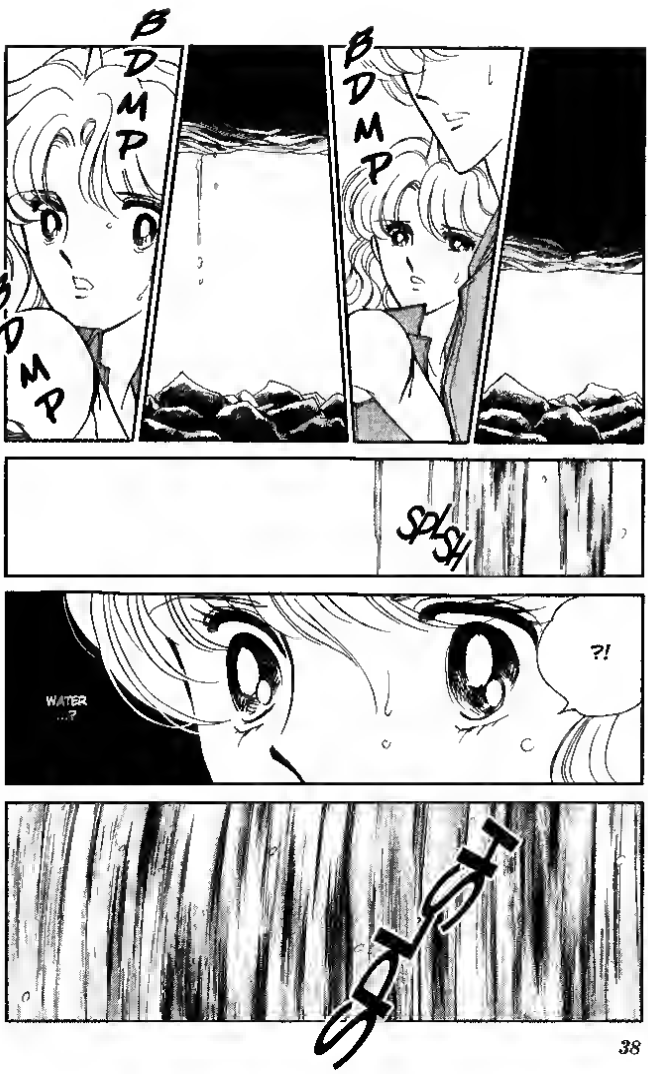
CLUNK
!!
THEY'RE RESONATING THROUGH THE CAVE?!
?!
HUH WHAT'S THIS? THE WORDS ARE GIBBERISH TO ME...
BUT

RUMBLE
IT'S MOVING?!
THE MONOLITH?!
SOKO?
WHEN DEMONS PRAY TO GOD I WONDER IF HE LISTENS--
BUT I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT PRAYING

LET WHATEVER I FIND IN HERE BE A FATAL BLOW TO THE KIMON!

IN ORDER TO BE WITH AKIRA, I'M TRYING TO DESTROY MY RACE WHICH BEARS THE SAME HORN AS I AND MY SISTER, WHO BEARS THE SAME BLOOD AS I
THERE'S NO DOUBT I'M AN ON!
I PRAY THAT THE MEANS TO DO SO LIES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS DOOR!
RU
MBLE

RUMBLE
PLEASE LET THE ANSWER TO DESTROYING THE KIMON BE HERE!
THE GATEWAY'S OPENING!
THE ROCK IS RISING?!


BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
SPLSH
?!
WATER ...?
SPLSH

SPLASH
AAAH?!

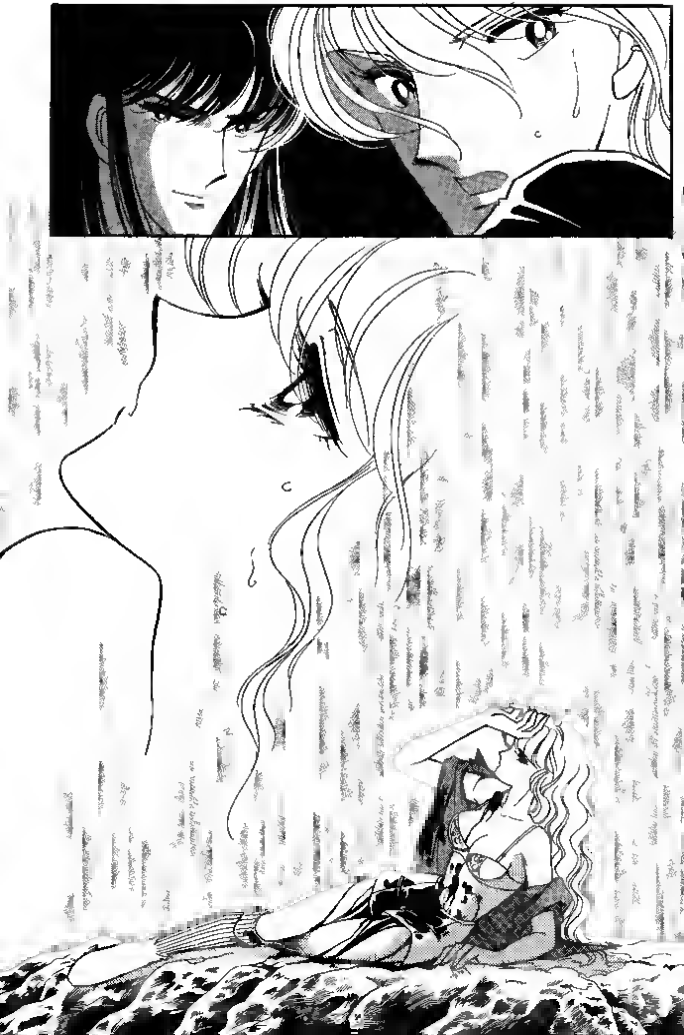
SFX: BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM
?!
THERE'S .. SOMETHING LIKE THIS UNDERGROUND . ..?
INCREDIBLE.
THERE ARE WHIRLPOOLS IN THE BASIN.

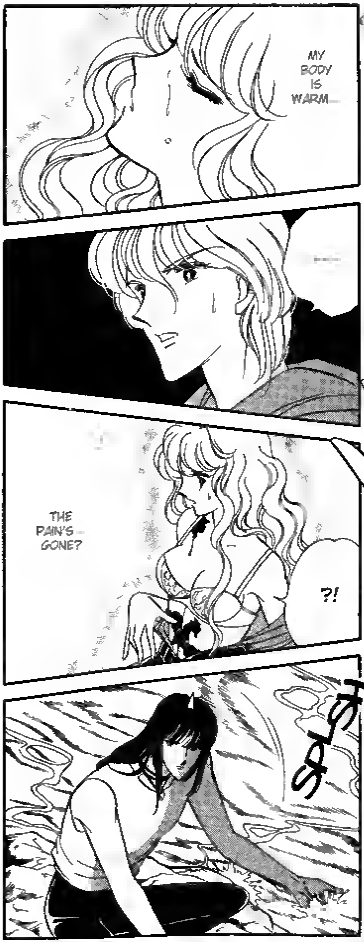
CAN SUCH A FLAWED "BYAKKO" NOT EVEN JUMP THIS FAR DOWN?
WHAT, YOU'RE NOT COMING?
TAKAO!
AKIRA!
KAI
TAKE CARE OF HIKO DON'T LET HER ESCAPE.
DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY, HIKO
WE'RE JUST MERE HUMANS, AFTER ALL
JUMP

TAKAO,
WHAT'S THIS PLACE FOR?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE TO THE KIMON?
EH?
NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, YOU SHOULD KNOW.
YOU'RE "SOURYU".

THERE'S SOME KIND OF POWER HERE...
KNOW...? IT'S TRUE I DO FEEL SOMETHING
SOKO
THIS IS THE HEART OF THE REFUGE
I CAN TELL THAT THERE'S POWER GATHERED HERE, BUT...?
TAP
THIS IS IT...
OH!
IT'S MY...

RIP
AHH!
THUD
AH .!
TAKAO, YOU SON OF A...!
SOKO!
HOLD IT,
THIS IS THE ANSWER YOU GUYS HAVE WANTED
WHAT?!
WATCH SOKO




MY BODY IS WARM...
I UNDERSTAND NOW
THE PAIN'S GONE?
?!
HERE
THE HEAT IN THE EARTH, AIR AND WATER HAS COLLECTED INTO ONE POWER AND GATHERED HERE

TAKAO, WHAT...?!
DON'T MOVE. I'M JUST WASHING AWAY THE BLOOD.
MY WOUND'S... GONE?!
WHAT IS THIS...?!
TAKAO, JUST WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!

THIS IS A PLACE OF HEALING
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A HOSPITAL FOR US
IN OTHER WORDS... RIGHT
HEALING?
THAT'S IT?
IT'S OUR SACRED GROUND WE ALSO OCCASIONALLY HAVE CEREMONIES HERE AS WELL LIKE WITH YOU BACK THEN
IF WE LOST THIS, IT'D BE AN INCONVENIENCE, BUT...

NOW DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
NO BEARING ON OUR EXISTENCE
IS THE NUMBER OF ONI GOING TO JUST KEEP GROWING ?
BUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE ANY BEARING ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE KIMON.
DROP

EVER SINCE I WAS CREATED
THE GROWTH OF THE ON! CANNOT BE STOPPED!
NO BEATING ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE KIMON...?
I WONDER IF THAT'S ACTUALLY TRUE...
EVEN THOUGH THE ON! HAVE BEEN DESTROYED ONCE BEFORE?
FLARE
FLARE
I'LL SAY THIS ONCE AGAIN COME BACK
SOKO,

BOOM
NO... I WON'T LET IT!!
IT CAN'T BE STOPPED?!
SOKO!

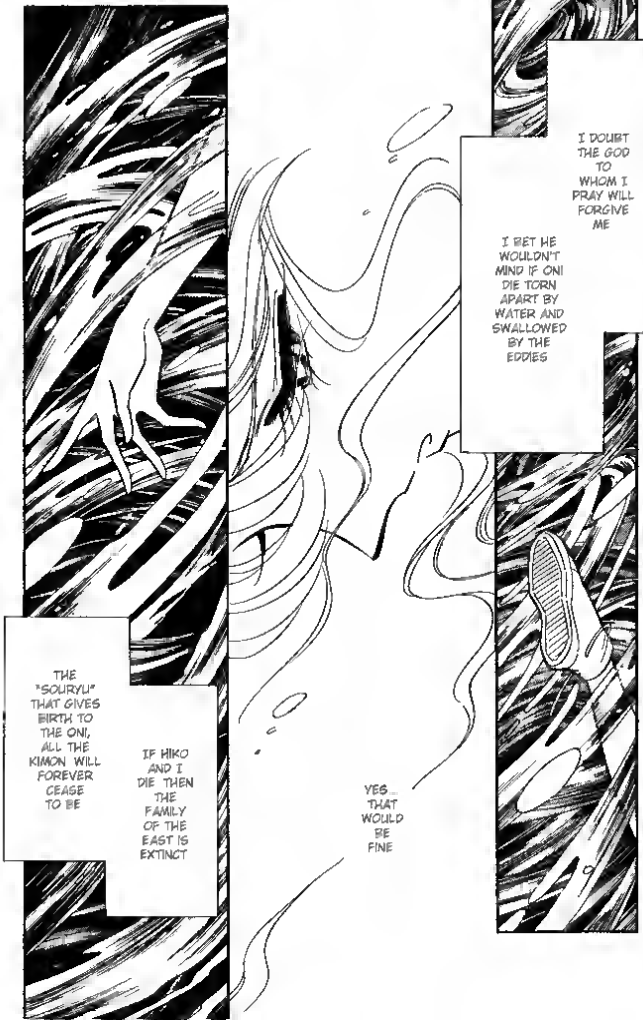
RUMBLE
!!
I'LL SPEAK THE DARK INCANTATION!
DEMON MASK, CLOSE THE REFUGE!
THE DARK INCANTATION?
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WE'RE GOING TO BE TRAPPED!
THAT'S RIGHT, THEY KEEP CALLING IT THAT. BUT...WHY "DARK" ?

SOKO, SNAP OUT OF IT! CAN YOU JUMP TO THE ENTRANCE?
KAI!
GET GOING! WE'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
KAI, HURRY!
BUT YOU WANTED TO GET HERE SO BADLY
HSHS
GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR TIME

BOOM
KAI!
KAI!
MAYUMI!

SLAM
AH...!
DEMON MASK!?
AH!
SPLASH

SFX: GLUB GLUB GLUB
THE WATER'S SWIRLING AROUND!
I CAN'T CONTROL MY ARMS AND LEGS!
IT HURTS!


I DOUBT THE GOD TO WHOM I PRAY WILL FORGIVE ME
I BET HE WOULDN'T MIND IF ONI DIE TORN APART BY WATER AND SWALLOWED BY THE EDDIES
THE "SOURYU" THAT GIVES BIRTH TO THE ONI, ALL THE KIMON WILL FOREVER CEASE TO BE
IF HIKO AND I DIE THEN THE FAMILY OF THE EAST IS EXTINCT
YES... THAT WOULD BE FINE

YES IF THERE'S NO WAY TO DESTROY THE KIMON, THEN AT LEAST I CAN PUT AN END TO "SOURYU"!
KILL THE ONI, AND HUMANS AND AKIRA WILL BE SAVED !

Ao no Fuuin by: Chie Shinohara

"Blue Seal"

SCANNER: LADYNAGISA
TRANSLATOR: KALENDEL
EDITOR: LADYNAGISA
QC: KALENDEL

STORM IN HEAVEN
WWW.STORMINHEAVEN.NET

MM...

...I'M OUTSIDE?
...I SURVIVED AGAIN?
SPLASH
UH-

SO THAT LAKE EMPTIES OUT HERE...?
HOW IRONIC, IT LOOKS LIKE THE DEMON MASK SAVED US...
...TAKAO LET US SEE THE REFUGE...
BECAUSE HE KNEW THERE'S NO WAY TO DESTROY THE KIMON
...LOOKS LIKE IT.
AND BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOUR WOUNDS.
TO KEEP THE ONI FROM MULTIPLYING EVEN MORE,
HIKO AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DIE.
EH?

STOP IT, SOKO!
SLASH
EVEN IF YOU TWO WERE TO DIE NOW, IT WOULDN'T SOLVE ANYTHING!
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF!
EVEN WITHOUT 'SOURYU' THEY CAN MULTIPLY ON THEIR OWN!
THERE ARE ALREADY 30 THOUSAND ONI OUT THERE!

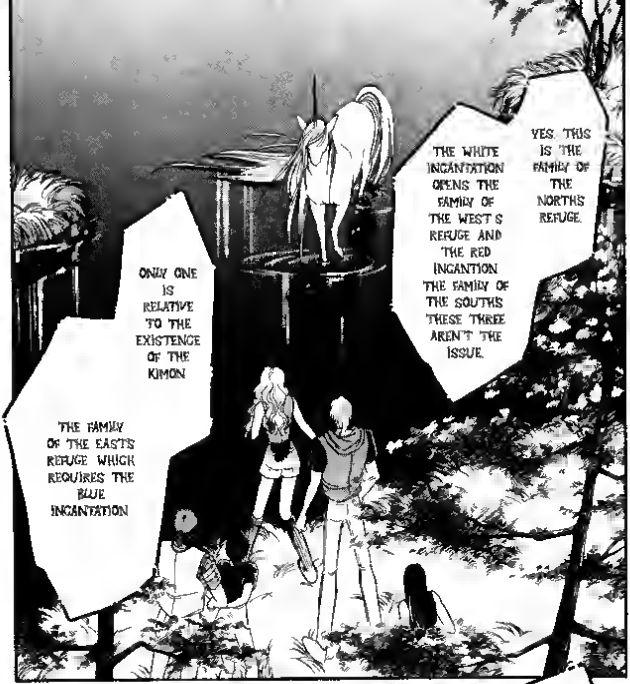
UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING THERE'S SOME WAY TO DESTROY THE KIMON.
I THOUGHT THAT MY POWER MIGHT HELP WITH IT, SO I'VE BEEN STAYING WITH YOU, AKIRA.
IF YOU START BEING A HINDRANCE, I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF!
IF I WIND UP BEING A HINDRANCE INSTEAD OF A HELP—

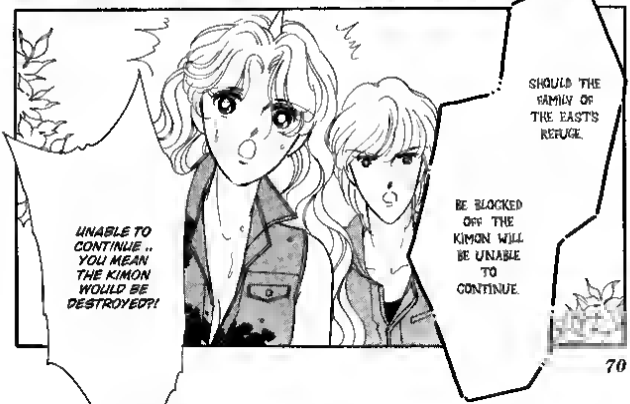
AKIRA...
I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, THE BYAKKO IS THE ONE WHO'LL KILL SOURYU.
I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE DO IT, NOT EVEN YOU!

...THEN
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
WHAT TAKAO TOLD US ABOUT THE REFUGE...
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

AKIRA...?
I NOTICED SOMETHING...
THE SPELL TO OPEN THE REFUGE HE CALLED IT THE "DARK INCANTATION"...
CLASSIFYING IT AS "DARK" SETS IT APART, WHICH MEANS THERE ARE OTHER INCANTATIONS RIGHT?
THERE ARE OTHER REFUGES THAT REQUIRE DIFFERENT INCANTATIONS?
THEN, YOU MEAN...
THEN

THERE'S A REFUGE FOR EACH OF THE FOUR HOUSES...
PRECISELY!
SPLASH!
THUS FOUR IN TOTAL
THERE ARE FOUR REFUGES?!
THE DEMON MASK!!


YES. THIS IS THE FAMILY OF THE NORTH'S REFUGE.
THE WHITE INCANTATION OPENS THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE AND THE RED INCANTION THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S THESE THREE AREN'T THE ISSUE.
ONLY ONE IS RELATIVE TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE KIMON
THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE WHICH REQUIRES THE BLUE INCANTATION


SHOULD THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE
BE BLOCKED OFF THE KIMON WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE.
UNABLE TO CONTINUE .. YOU MEAN THE KIMON WOULD BE DESTROYED?!

THE BLUE SEAL?!
YES
THAT'S WHY THE HUMANS OF ANCIENT TIMES INVOKED THE BLUE SEAL IN ORDER TO DESTROY THE KIMON

THE BLUE SEAL CAN DESTROY THE KIMON?!
WHY...?!
WHY DOES BLOCKING IT OFF DESTROY THE KIMON?!
WHY DOES SEALING THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE ..

PRO-CREATE?!
NO ONE KNOWS THE REASON WHY
BUT ANY OTHER PLACE WILL CAUSE THE CHILD TO EITHER BE ABORTED OR STILLBORN
HUSH
AS QUEEN RAGOS CLONE YOU SHOULD HAVE ALSO BEEN REBORN THERE.
THE PLACE WHERE I WAS BORN?!
THAT'S THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THE ONI CAN PROCREATE.

IF THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE IS CLOSED OFF, THE ONI WILL NO LONGER HAVE CHILDREN,
AND IF SOURYU NO LONGER CREATES MORE ONI FROM HUMANS...
THE ONI WILL BE DESTROYED!
TAKAO ONCE MENTIONED THAT THE KIMON HAD A SACRED GROUND.
AND SOURYU WAS RESURRECTED IN THE PLACE WHERE WOOD, FIRE, EARTH, WATER, AND METAL ENERGIES ARE GATHERED!
THAT MEANS THE REFUGE OF THE FAMILY OF THE EAST IS THE KIMON SACRED GROUND!

DEMON MASK,
WHERE IS THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE?!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE CURRENT ONE IS
YOU WERE LIKELY RESURRECTED IN A NEW REFUGE THAT WAS MADE AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE KIMON
I ONLY KNOW OF THE ANCIENT REFUGE THAT WAS SEALED OFF
OH NO—
WE'VE FOUND A WAY TO DESTROY THE KIMON!

YES THEY DO HOWEVER IT SEEMS GENBU DIDN'T EXPLAIN THE MOST IMPORTANT PART
YOU SAID THE FAMILY OF THE WEST AND SOUTH ALSO HAD REFUGES. DO THEY ALSO HAVE HEALING POWERS LIKE THIS ONE?
THE REFUGES ARE WHERE EACH RESPECTIVE HEAD RECEIVES THEIR POWER
THE POWER IN THE REFUGE IS GIVEN TO THE ONE WHO QUALIFIES AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY
THEN I'D RECEIVE "SUZAKU'S" POWER AT THE REFUGE OF THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH?
SO, IF I WENT TO THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE I'D GET THE POWER OF THE TRUE "BYAKKO"?
RECEIVES THEIR POWER?!

SHAKE
YES
THE EXCEPTION IS "SOURYU"
SINCE SHE WAS BORN IN THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE, SOURYU" ALONE HAS HER POWER BESTOWED UPON HER FROM BIRTH.
TELL ME, DEMON MASK!
JUST TELL ME THE LOCATION OF THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S CURRENT REFUGE!
I TRULY DON'T KNOW IT!
SOKO!
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT BADLY PERHAPS YOU SHOULD EXAMINE A MAP OF THE ANCIENT REFUGES
PLEASE! DEMON MASK!
EH?!

THERE ARE SEVERAL PLACES WITHIN JAPAN ASIDE FROM THE REFUGES THAT CONTAIN POWER.
THE MAP THAT SHOWS THOSE PLACES WOULD CONTAIN THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S CURRENT REFUGE.
?!
A NEW SACRED GROUND THE NEW REFUGE.
WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FROM ONE OF THOSE PLACES

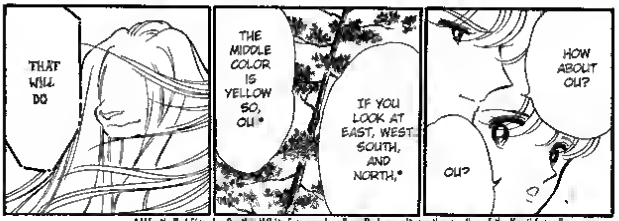
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT MYSELF MEREIN HEARD OF IT FROM MY PARENTS
IF THERE IS SUCH A MAP... YES
SO... YOU'RE SAYING... THAT IF WE SEARCH FOR THE PLACES ON A MAP FROM THE SEALED SACRED GROUND WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THE NEW REFUGES...?
THE KIMON WOULDN'T HAVE OVERLOOKED LAND THAT CONTAINS POWER. I'M SURE.
DEMON MASK, YOU SAID YOU KNEW WHERE THE OLD SACRED GROUNDS WERE!
SOKO, LET'S GO!

FUMP
AH!
PUSH
I MAY NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE "BLUE SEAL", BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DO IT!
SHUT UP AND QUIT FOOLING AROUND!
WAIT, SOKO!
HIKO!
YOU CAN'T FOLLOW HER TOO FAR! THIS IS STILL THE FAMILY OF THE NORTH'S REFUGE!
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE QUICK!
HIKO!

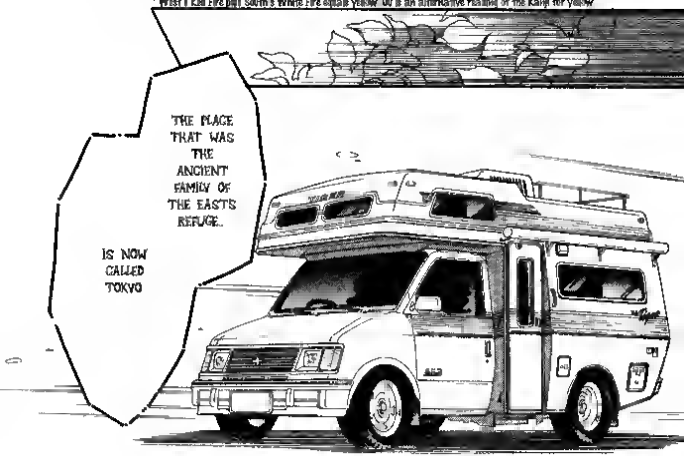
DEMON MASK?!
IT'S AS THE BYAKKO SAYS
WE NEED TO LEAVE QUICKLY
BUT
THAT REMINDS ME, WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO TELL US ALL OF THIS?!
I'M INTERESTED IN THE NEW "SOURYU" SOKO.
EH?
THAT'S WHY I'LL ACCOMPANY HER
I'VE LIVED FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS
BUT SOKO HAS BEEN THE FIRST TO IMMOBILIZE ME.

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! WHAT, WE'LL JUST HAVE A UNICORN TROT ALONG BEHIND US?!
That's why...?
I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND THAT...
SHAKE
I'LL GO AHEAD AND CHANGE MY FORM
HUFF HUFF HUFF
...IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A DOG?
RUSTLE
Maybe if you combine a Chow Chow, Sheep Dog and a cow

I'LL ASK AGAIN. YOU SAID YOU KNOW WHERE THE ANCIENT REFUGES ARE. CAN YOU LEAD US THERE?
AKIRA?
WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE KIMON
IF YOU PLAN ON TEACHING US, YOU'LL COME ALONG.
THAT'S FINE
THEN, LET'S HURRY
IT'LL BE PROBLEMATIC IF TAKAO CATCHES US AGAIN.
DEMON MASK, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
IT'S A PAIN TO KEEP SAYING "DEMON MASK"
HE'S A DOG, RIGHT? EVERYONE CALLS THEIR DOGS POCHI!



* West's Red Fire plus South's White Fire equals yellow. Ou is an alternative reading of the Kanji for yellow.

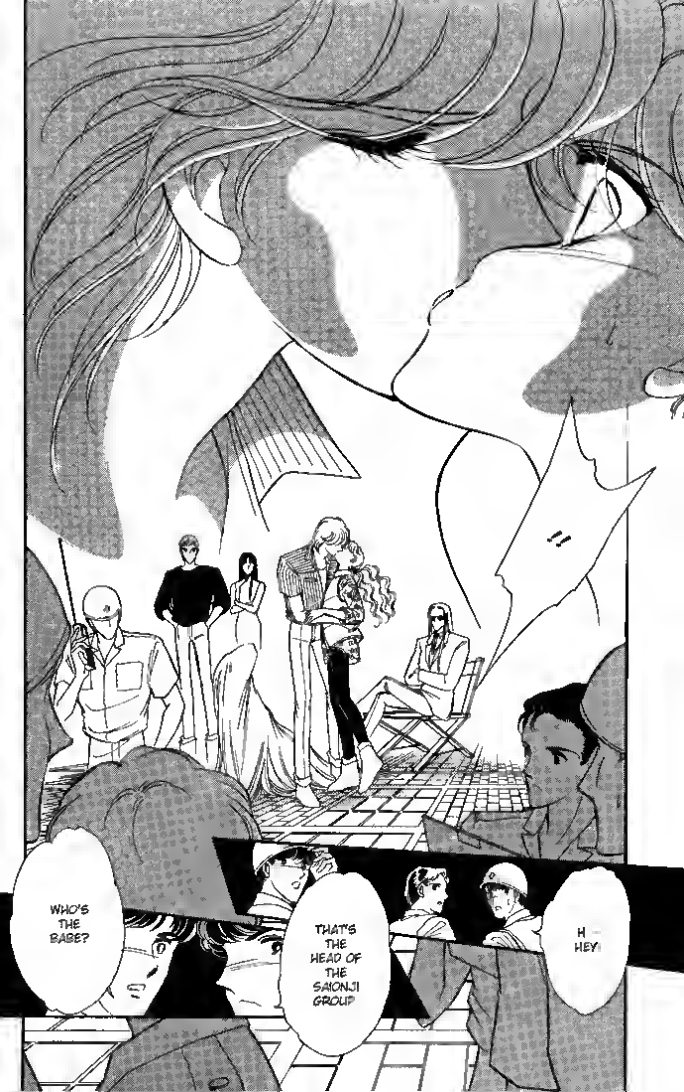


TOKYO ...?!
YES
EVEN AS TIME PASSED AND RULERS CHANGED THE LOCATION OF THE CAPITAL REMAINED CONSTANT
TOKYO'S PRETTY LARGE
THERE'S A SEALED KIMON SACRED GROUND IN TOKYO? JUST WHERE IN TOKYO IS IT?'
TOKYO 280KM
SENDAI 80KM
I CAN BE MORE SPECIFIC WHEN WE GET THERE.

UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE?!
THERE'S NO DOUBT THE AIR HAS GROWN IMPURE AND I CANNOT SENSE ANY POWER NOW BUT
THE PLACE MY PARENTS TOLD ME ABOUT IS DIRECTLY BELOW US
YOU'RE SAYING THE REFUGE IS UNDER HERE?!
NO WAY!

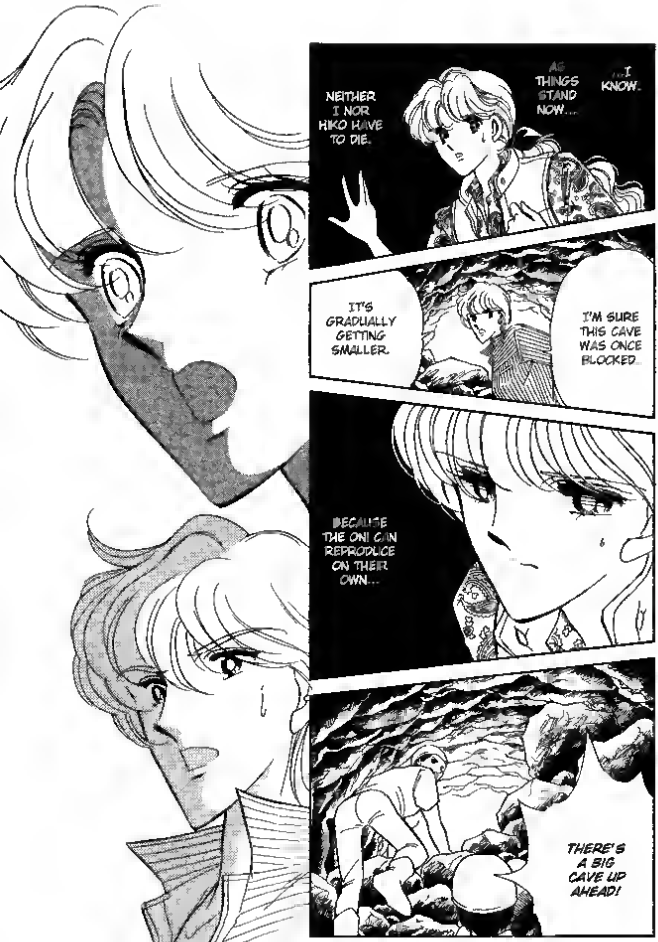
WE CAN'T TELL IF THIS IS THE SEALED SACRED GROUND OR NOT
REALLY, EVEN NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND A WAY—
BELOW US?
SO WHAT NOW? IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN GO AND LOOK AT IT
CAN'T WE JUST DIG?!
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHY THE SAIONJI HAS MAINTAINED INFLUENCE WITH THE COUNTRY ALL THIS TIME
EVEN IF IT'S UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE OR CONGRESS BUILDING WE CAN GO AHEAD AND DIG!
AKIRA!

CLANG
THUD
BANG
BANG
SOKO
A STALEMATE.
IF THAT HAPPENS, WHAT WILL I DO?
IF IT ISN'T, UNCLE, THEN WE'VE REACHED A STALEMATE.
BUT THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THE KIMON SACRED GROUND IS HERE
AKIRA WE'RE DIGGING DAY AND NIGHT AS YOU'VE INSTRUCTED
THAT BLOODBATH AT THEIR MANSION IS STILL UNRESOLVED TOO
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON WITH THE SAIONJI GROUP?!
WE NORMAL FOLK CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF THE RICH


H—
HEY
THAT'S THE HEAD OF THE SAIONJI GROUP
WHO'S THE BABE?

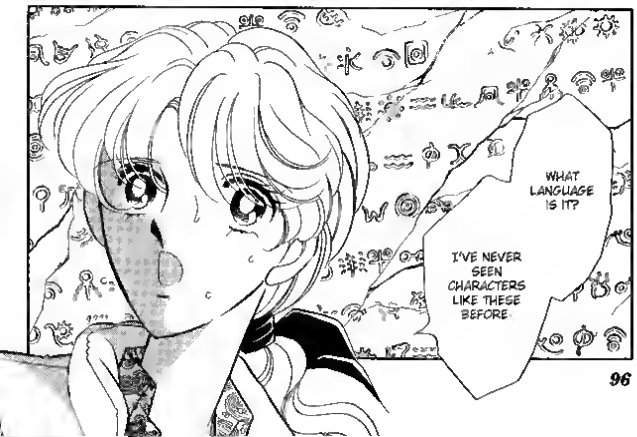
AKIRA...!!
AKIRA...! PEOPLE ARE..
DON'T WORRY IT'LL WORK OUT WE'LL FIND THE REFUGE
DOES IT BOTHER YOU? I'M NOT GOING TO HIDE IT FROM ANYONE
YOU AND I ARE GOING TO GET MARRIED
I KNOW WE'LL BE ALLOWED TO, SO DON'T WORRY
AKIRA

YOU FOUND IT?!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE, AKIRA,
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUND A CAVE
HAVE THE REGULAR WORKERS FALL BACK AND LET THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S WORKERS CONTINUE DIGGING.
I'LL BE GOING TOO!
WE'VE FOUND...
THE SEALED REFUGE?!
WHOA!
TO THINK SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS UNDER TOKYO!
IT KEEPS GOING I WONDER HOW FAR IT GOES
WHO KNOWS... PROBABLY DEEPER THAN THE SUBWAY RUNS


NEITHER I NOR HIKO HAVE TO DIE.
AS THINGS STAND NOW....
...I KNOW.
IT'S GRADUALLY GETTING SMALLER.
I'M SURE THIS CAVE WAS ONCE BLOCKED.
BECAUSE THE ONI CAN REPRODUCE ON THEIR OWN...
THERE'S A BIG CAVE UP AHEAD!

LOOK AT THIS!
THIS IS... THE PLACE WHERE ONI WERE BORN
THE SEALED SACRED GROUND !!
TINY BONES
BABY ONI...?!

AN INSCRIPTION!?

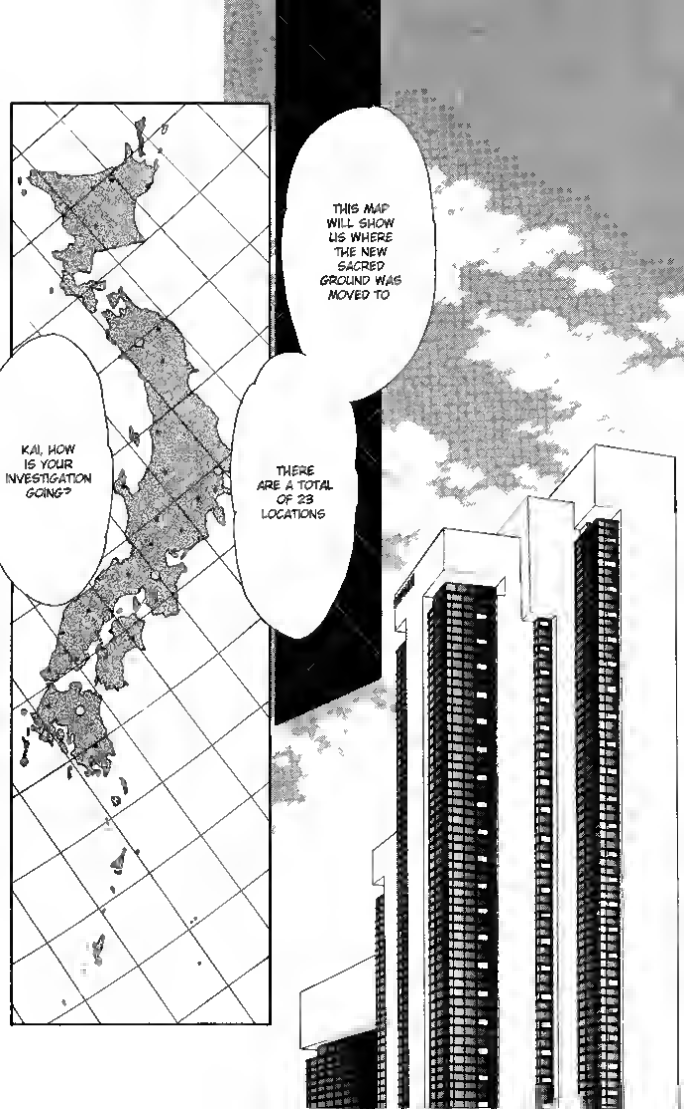

WHAT LANGUAGE IS IT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN CHARACTERS LIKE THESE BEFORE

THAT IS THE WRITING OF THE KIMON
THE KIMON LANG-UAGE?!
YES THE REFUGE INCANTATIONS ARE ALSO SPOKEN IN IT
—IT'S A MAP OF JAPAN!
!!

THE REMAINING SMALL DOTS WOULD BE WHERE THE NEW SACRED GROUNDS ARE. IN ANCIENT TIMES THEY WERE USED MERELY AS A PLACE OF HEALING
THERE ARE FOUR LARGE POINTS ON THE MAP
THOSE ARE THE REFUGES OF THE FOUR FAMILIES
WE'VE FOUND IT
I DON'T CARE IF YOU HAVE TO SUSPEND ALL OTHER SAIONJI ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE SCARED GROUND IS FOUND!
KAI!
GET THIS COPIED AND HAVE PEOPLE INVESTIGATE ALL THESE LOCATIONS IMMEDIATELY!
OK!

STRENGTHEN OUR SURVEILLANCE OF TAKAO AND HIS PEOPLE!
THIS TIME WE WON'T LET HIM GET IN THE WAY!
THE ONI CAN REPRODUCE ON THEIR OWN, SO
SOKO!
JUST WAIT, WE'LL FIND A WAY TO THE SACRED GROUND SOON
SO I'LL SEAL THE SACRED GROUND!

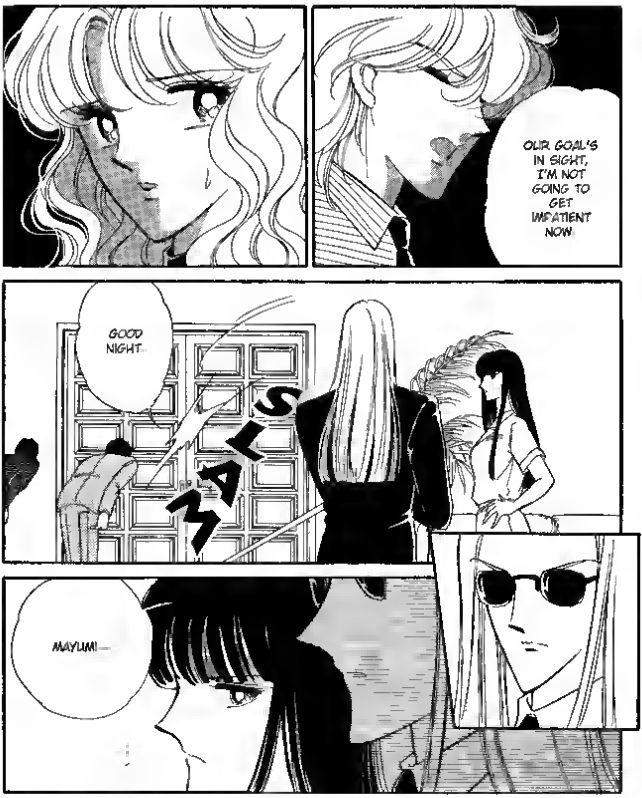
THIS TIME THE ONI CAN BE DEFEATED!
THANK YOU, GOD!
AND THEN THE ONI WILL BE DESTROYED!


KAI, HOW IS YOUR INVESTIGATION GOING?
THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 23 LOCATIONS
THIS MAP WILL SHOW US WHERE THE NEW SACRED GROUND WAS MOVED TO

THERE MUST BE MORE LOCATIONS LIKE THAT! GO THROUGH AND ELIMINATE THEM!
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT LOCATION IS BLOCKED OFF
THE GROUP FROM THE KANTO REGION HAS REPORTED IN
MR. AKIRA
A REPORT HAS ARRIVED FROM GROUP A IN SHIKOKU
GROUP B IN HOKURIKU AND GROUP C IN CHUBU HAVE BEGUN INVESTIGATING THOSE LOCATIONS
AMAZING ...
NOW THAT WE KNOW HOW TO DESTROY THE KIMON, THE FAMILY OF THE WEST IS MOVING AT TOP SPEED

AKIRA, ACCORDING TO WHAT THIS STRANGE BEAST SAID,
IF YOU FIND THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE, YOU'LL GAIN THE TRUE POWERS OF THE "BYAKKO".
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?
UNCLE..
AKIRA, IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO CHIP IN BUT FOR NOW, JUST REST.
I'D PERSONALLY LIKE THE POWER TO BE ABLE TO FACE OFF WITH TAKAO... BUT...
IF WE FIND THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE AND CLOSE IT OFF... THAT'LL BE THE END OF IT! WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON THAT!
KAI WE NEED TO REST SOME TOO
I HEAR YOU WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR THREE DAYS NOW, AND I WANT A SHOWER AND SOME SLEEP.

SOKO AND I WILL HEAD BACK TO THE MANSION, SO YOU CAN CONTACT US THERE
AKIRA.
I'VE NO DOUBT THAT THE KIMON WILL GUARD THEIR SACRED GROUND. THE FAMILY OF THE EAST'S REFUGE WITH ALL THEIR POWER.
DON'T FORGET THAT RIGHT NOW SOKO'S THE ONLY ONE WITH THE POWER TO RIVAL TAKAO THE "GENBU".
AKIRA!
YOU WANT ME TO KEEP MY HANDS OFF HER, RIGHT?
I KNOW THAT FULL WELL.

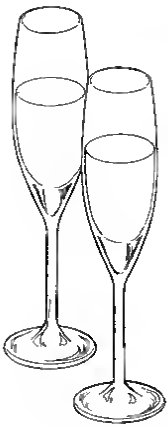

OUR GOAL'S IN SIGHT, I'M NOT GOING TO GET IMPATIENT NOW.
GOOD NIGHT.
SMASH
MAYUMI...

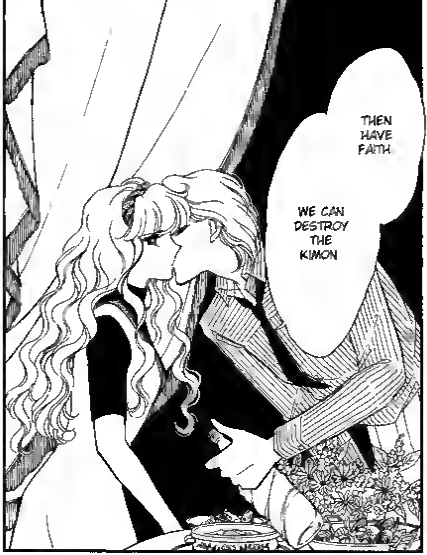
INCREDIBLE!
YOU COOKED ALL THIS?
YEAH
MY MOM'S POLICY WAS THAT MEN OF THIS DAY AND AGE HAVE GOT TO KNOW HOW TO COOK
She stuffed it into me
POP

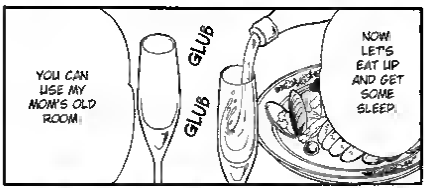
N—NO
WHAT'S WRONG, SOKO?
YOU AREN'T EATING MUCH DO YOU NEED MORE ENERGY?
WHAT IS IT?
SNIFF
SNIFF
CHAMPAGNE
GLUB
GLUB
OH, YOU DRINK UP TOO. IT'S ALMOST CELEBRATION TIME
I'M AFRAID
I'M GLAD WE KNOW HOW TO DESTROY THE KIMON. BUT I CAN'T CELEBRATE
MY HOPES HAVE BEEN DASHED SO MANY TIMES NOW I JUST CAN'T CELEBRATE

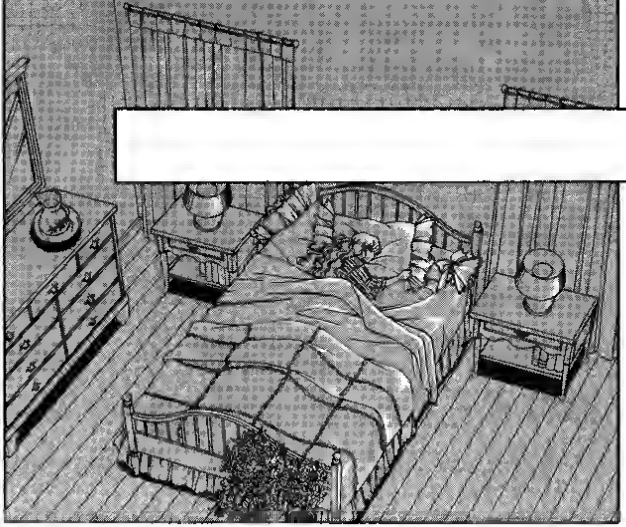
BECAUSE IF THE KIMON AREN'T DESTROYED, WE CAN'T BE MARRIED.
"SOURYU" SHOULDN'T BE SO TIMID. DON'T WORRY
WE'RE GOING TO WIN, AND THE KIMON ARE GOING TO BE DESTROYED
THE KIMON MIGHT EVEN PULL OUT AHEAD AT THE LAST MOMENT! HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
HOW...?! SURE WE CAN SEE OUR GOAL, BUT NO ONE KNOWS HOW TO CROSS THE FINISH LIN

THAT'S RIGHT
I'VE BEEN SAYING IT ALL ALONG, THAT I WANT TO MARRY YOU!
...MARRIED?
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
C
...I WANT TO MARRY YOU, AKIRA

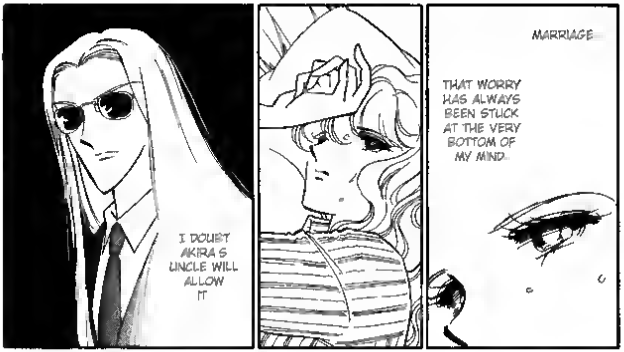



THEN HAVE FAITH
WE CAN DESTROY THE KIMON

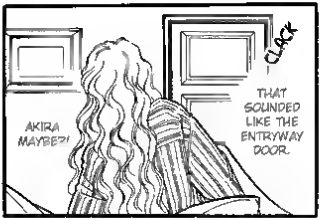

YOU CAN USE MY MOM'S OLD ROOM
GLUB
GLUB
NOW LET'S EAT UP AND GET SOME SLEEP

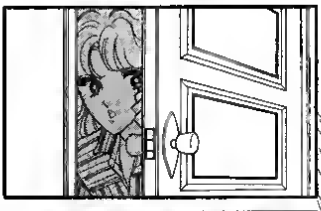


I CAN'T SLEEP...
ROLL

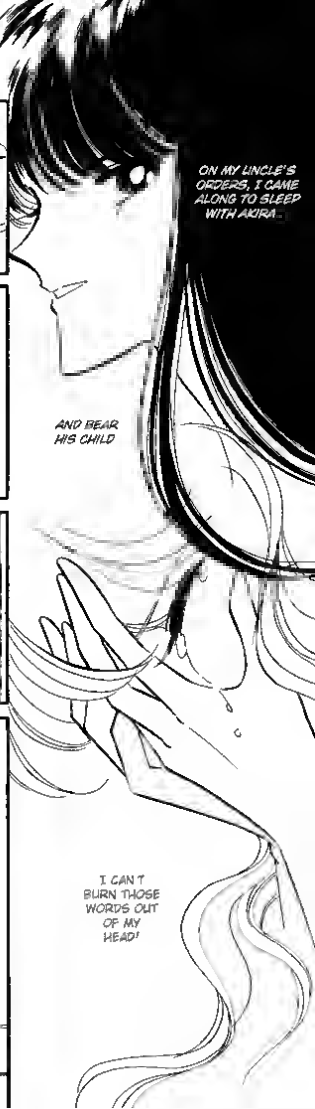

I DOUBT AKIRA'S UNCLE WILL ALLOW IT
MARRIAGE...
THAT WORRY HAS ALWAYS BEEN STUCK AT THE VERY BOTTOM OF MY MIND...

CREAK

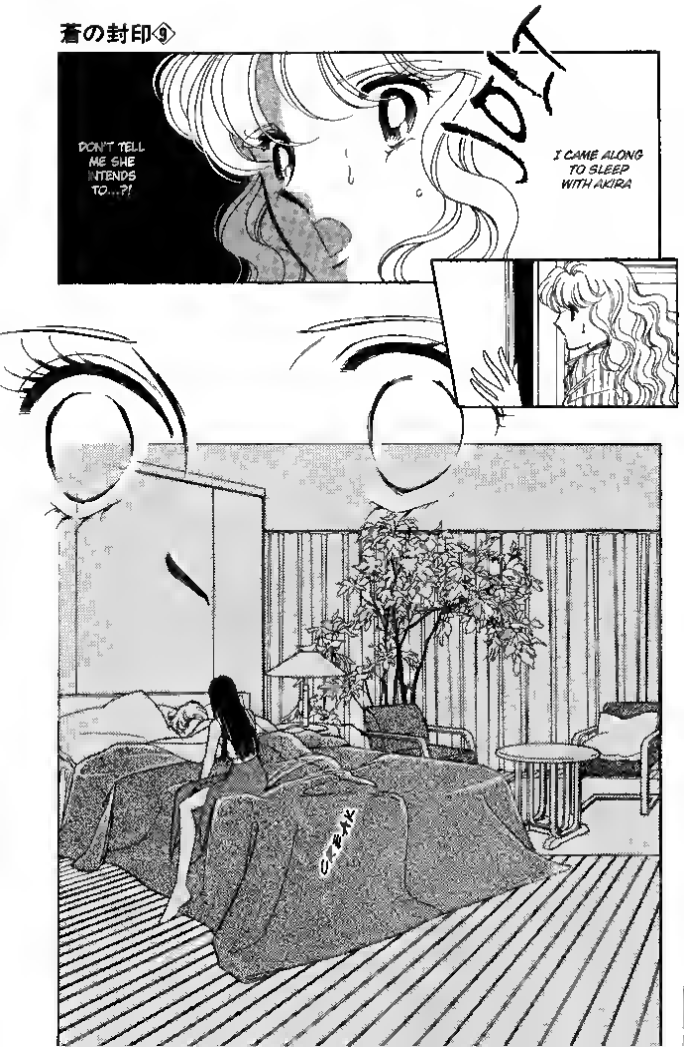

CLICK
THAT SOUNDED LIKE THE ENTRYWAY DOOR.
AKIRA MAYBE?!



OH!


ON MY UNCLE'S ORDERS, I CAME ALONG TO SLEEP WITH AKIRA...
AND BEAR HIS CHILD
I CAN'T BURN THOSE WORDS OUT OF MY HEAD!

MAYUMI?!
AKIRA'S ROOM?!


DON'T TELL ME SHE INTENDS TO...?!
I CAME ALONG TO SLEEP WITH AKIRA
CREAK

MM...
SOKO...?
POP

MAYUMI, WHAT'RE YOU... NO, WHY DID YOU COME HERE?!
WHY?
YOU CAN'T SLEEP WITH SOKO, RIGHT? OUR UNCLE'S JUST BEING CONSIDERATE
SHOCK
QUIT IT, THE BOTH OF YOU!
CLATTER
I TOLD YOU, IF SLEEPING WITH MY SISTER IS ONE OF THE DUTIES OF THE "BYAKKO", THEN I'LL MAKE IT SO THERE'S NO LONGER THE NEED FOR THE TITLE OF "BYAKKO"!

I LOVE SOKO!
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SLEEPING WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN HER! YOU CAN GO TELL OUR UNCLE THAT!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH STRENGTH YOUR WORDS JUST NOW HAVE GIVEN ME
AKIRA...
YOU DON'T KNOW, DO YOU?

I CAN DESTROY THE KIMON! EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE I WILL SEE THEM DESTROYED!
IT MIGHT BE FOOLISH TO THINK IT, BUT...
FOOLISH

EACH OF THE FOUR FAMILIES HAS THEIR OWN REFUGE, RIGHT?!
IF WE GO TO THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE, I'LL GAIN THE POWERS OF THE "SUZAKU"!
TAKAO. WHY ARE WE HIDING?!

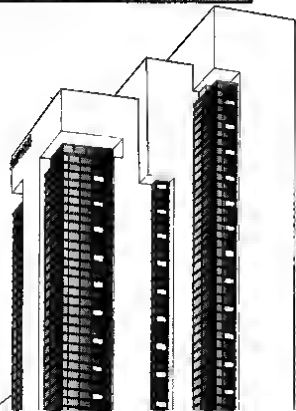
DID YOU HEAR THAT FROM THE DEMON MASK?
HE TOLD ME! NOW WHERE IS THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE?!
WE DON'T HAVE "SOURYU", AND RIGHT NOW "SUZAKU" IS JUST AN EMPTY TITLE!
IF I HAD THAT POWER, I'D BE EVEN MORE USEFUL IN A FIGHT!
"SUZAKU'S" POWER ISN'T NECESSARY
YOU DON'T EVEN WANT TO TELL ME WHAT IT IS
WHICH MEANS IT HAS TO DO WITH SOKO

HIKO!
YOU CAN'T HIDE IT!
YOU LOVE MY SISTER!
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE AVOIDED THINGS THAT PUT HER IN DANGER, ISN'T IT?!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE HIDING IT!
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO REALIZE HOW MUCH THAT'S HAMPERING THE REVIVAL OF THE KIMON!

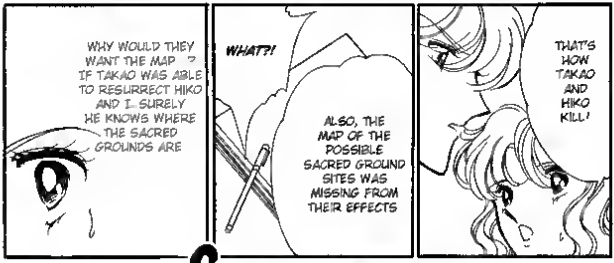
I'M DONE ASKING!
I'LL FIND THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE ON MY OWN!
HIKO, WAIT!
SLAM

WHAT?!

THE GROUP THAT WENT TO INVESTIGATE KANAGAWA HAS BEEN KILLED?!



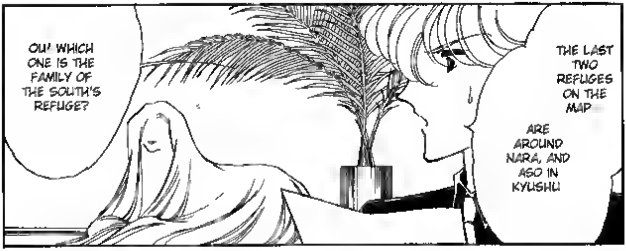
LIKE BEFORE, THERE WERE CLOTHES LEFT IN THE SHAPE OF A PERSON
WE BELIEVE SO
WAS IT ONI?

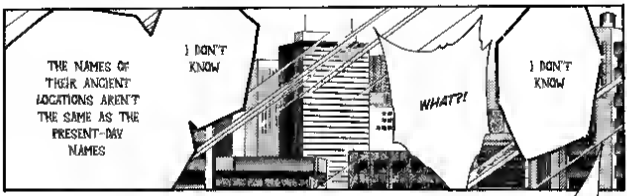

WHY WOULD THEY WANT THE MAP ? IF TAKAO WAS ABLE TO RESURRECT HIKO AND I.. SURELY HE KNOWS WHERE THE SACRED GROUNDS ARE
WHAT?!
ALSO, THE MAP OF THE POSSIBLE SACRED GROUND SITES WAS MISSING FROM THEIR EFFECTS
THAT'S HOW TAKAO AND HIKO KILL!

SLAM
EXCUSE ME!
と
WE CAUGHT SIGHT OF THE "SUZAKU" AT THE TOKYO TRAIN STATION THIRTY MINUTES AGO!

SHE GOT ON A BULLET TRAIN
WHERE COULD SHE BE GOING?
OH!
!!
YOU SAID THE MAP WAS STOLEN...
THAT'S RIGHT... WE MADE DISCOVERING THE SACRED GROUND OUR PRIORITY, BUT...
THE ANCIENT REFUGES OF THE FAMILY OF THE WEST AND SOUTH ARE ALSO RECORDED THERE

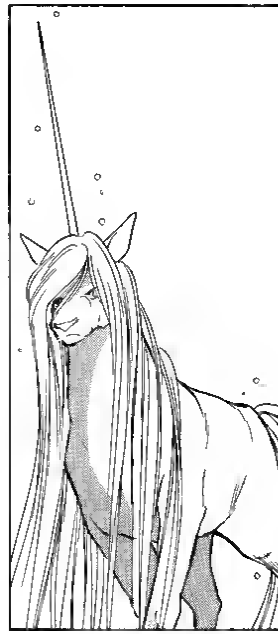
IF SHE GOES TO THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE SHE'LL BECOME THE REAL "SUZAKU"!
...NO
WE CAN'T LET HIKO GET THAT POWER!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE CAN BEAT TAKAO ALONE
WE CAN'T LET THE KIMON GAIN ANY MORE POWER!


OU! WHICH ONE IS THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE?
THE LAST TWO REFUGES ON THE MAP ARE AROUND NARA, AND ASO IN KYUSHU!


THE NAMES OF THEIR ANCIENT LOCATIONS AREN'T THE SAME AS THE PRESENT-DAY NAMES
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT?!
I DON'T KNOW

I'M GOING!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH, WE JUST HAVE TO STOP HIKO!

NARA!!
IT COULD BE NARA OR ASO SO I'LL HIT THE CLOSEST ONE FIRST—



TO NARA!!
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE REFUGE BEFORE HIKO NO MATTER WHAT!
WILL WE REALLY BEAT HER THERE ON THIS?

WE'LL PROBABLY ARRIVE AFTER HER
EVEN WITH A PERSONAL JET, IT'LL BE CLOSE...
HIKO TOOK A BULLET TRAIN FROM KYOTO TO NARA, RIGHT?
SHINKANSEN
CLOSE...
IF HIKO GAINS SUZAKU'S POWERS NOW THE POWER OF THE KIMON WILL GROW
WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN IF WE WANT TO BLOCK OFF THE SACRED GROUND
THAT'S RIGHT "SUZAKU S" POWER WOULD HAVE TO BE FOR COMBAT RIGHT?
SO, WHY HASN'T TAKAO GIVEN IT TO HER?
HE SHOULD KNOW WHERE THE REFUGES ARE...

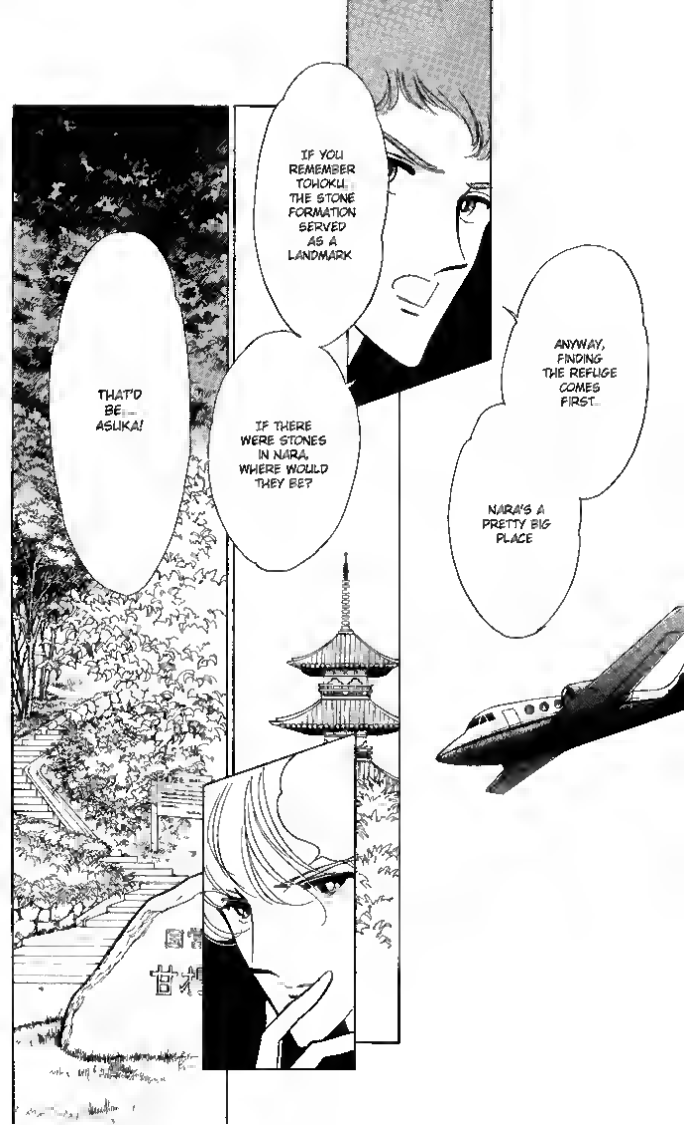
WHAT IS "SUZAKU'S" POWER, ANYWAY?
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU DEMON MASK?
YEAH, I'VE BEEN WONDERING THAT MYSELF, AS WELL.
THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH...
ADMINISTERS THE PUNISHMENT FOR THE KIMON.
PUNISH-MENT?!

Yet again barbaric
AS YOU ARE AWARE
ONI ARE NEAR IMMORTAL AND EVEN IF YOU CUT OFF THEIR ARMS OR LEGS THEY'LL BE RESTORED
BUT ANYONE CAN DELIVER THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT, RIGHT?
JUST CUT OFF THE HEAD
IT IS THE PUNISHMENT OF BEING DECAPITATED AND BEING FORCED TO LIVE ON AS ONLY A HEAD
HOWEVER, THE SUZAKU HOLDS THE POWER TO DENY THAT RESTORATION AND CAN SEVER YOUR LIMBS IN PUNISHMENT
THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT AMONG THE KIMON ISN'T DEATH.

LIVING AS ONLY A HEAD?!
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE ...
THE SUZAKU CAN DO SO
IT IS THE ABILITY TO MAKE ONE LIVE ETERNALLY WITH THEIR EMOTIONS AND POWER INTACT BUT UNABLE TO MOVE OR DIE

SHUDDER
ONLY A HEAD...
BUT WITH THEIR POWER?!
THE "SOURYU" COULD FUNCTION AS JUST A HEAD?!
INDEED...
IF... THAT'S THE CASE,
I WONDER... WHY... TAKAO DIDN'T DO THAT... TO ME...?
IT'S NOT THAT HE DIDN'T DO IT, IT'S THAT HE COULDN'T DO IT.
HE LOVES SOKO, SO HE COULDN'T DO IT.

ENOUGH ABOUT TAKAO!
TAKAO MUST STILL ...
IF HIKO GAINS THE POWERS OF "SUZAKU", I'M SURE SHE'LL COME AFTER SOKO AGAIN!
AKIRA ...?
IT LOOKS LIKE TAKAO DOESN'T WANT HIKO TO BECOME THE "SUZAKU".
GUESS WE SHOULD BE GLAD HE FELL FOR SOKO, EH?
?

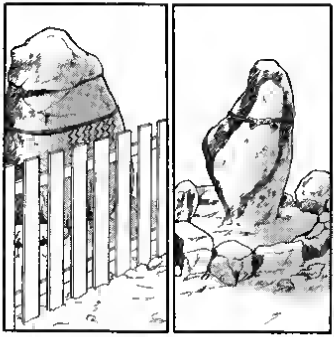

IF YOU REMEMBER TOHOKU, THE STONE FORMATION SERVED AS A LANDMARK
ANYWAY, FINDING THE REFUGE COMES FIRST.
NARA'S A PRETTY BIG PLACE
IF THERE WERE STONES IN NARA, WHERE WOULD THEY BE?
THAT'D BE... ASUKA!

THOSE ARE THE YAMATO SANZAN MOUNTAINS FROM THE LEFT. KAGU, MIMINASHI AND UNEBI
BUT THIS PLACE IS TOURIST CENTRAL. COULD IT REALLY BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...?
THAT'S RIGHT, WHAT ABOUT HIKO?
SHE HASN'T ARRIVED YET. WAS SHE?!

AN EARTH-QUAKE ?
HEY, I WAS JUST INFORMED ...
THAT THERE'S BEEN AN EARTHQUAKE IN TOKAI SO HER TRAIN'S BEEN DELAYED
THEN HIKO...
WE'VE WON THE FIRST ROUND
NEXT IS TO SEE IF THIS IS THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE OR NOT
IF THIS IS THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE THEN AKIRA CAN GAIN THE TRUE POWER OF THE "BYAKKO"
THAT'S RIGHT !!

LOOK FOR A PENTAGRAM
OH?!
STONES
THERE ARE TONS OF STONES IN ASUKA
THE MONKEY STONE, THE TURTLE STONES THE SAKE-VAT STONE
IT WON'T BE ANYTHING THAT FAMOUS
IF IT'S THE MARK FOR THE REFUGE, IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING LESS WELL-KNOWN
THE PENTAGRAM IS A SORT OF CHARM FOR THE KIMON. THE ENTRANCE TO THE REFUGE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MARKED WITH A STAR

YOU WANT TO VIEW STONE FORMATIONS OUTSIDE THE TOURIST AREA?
MUSEUM
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WANDER AROUND RANDOMLY BEFORE HIKO ARRIVES
I DOUBT IT'LL HELP, BUT WE NEED LOCAL INFORM-ATION
YOU THINK THIS PLACE WOULD KNOW ABOUT A PENTAGRAM?
A triangle or a star or ...?
Yes is there anything at all?
OFFICE
THE SHRINE IS CONSIDERABLY FAR IN AND HARD TO PICK OUT
THAT'S WHAT THE LOCALS CALL THE OLD SMALL SHRINE
LORD ONIKOBE?!
ALSO, IF YOU DON'T MIND RANDOM ONES YOU CAN FIND SOME SCATTERED ON LORD ONIKOBE'S GROUNDS
LET'S SEE NEAR THE SAKE-VAT STONE YOU CAN FIND STONES KIND OF LIKE CASTLE WALLS
Around here



BUT THERE'S NO PENTA-GRAM
THE STONES ARE REALLY RANDOM

I THOUGHT THE NAME ONIKOBE FIT PERFECTLY BUT I GUESS IT'S NOT THAT EASY

THAT AREA'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE OLDEST.
THERE'S A STONE SAID TO BE A VESSEL TO A GOD, SO YOU MAY FIND IT INTERESTING.

HEY THERE'S A ROPE BARRIER. CAN WE ENTER A PROHIBITED ZONE?
UP AHEAD IS THE ONE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO HOUSE THE GOD
I DOUBT IT'LL BE ANYTHING... BUT WE MIGHT AS WELL CHECK IT OUT.
THE REFUGES ARE PLACES WHERE NATURAL POWER HAS GATHERED
I'M AFRAID OF ONI NOT OF BEING CURSED
I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO SMELL THAT IF WE'RE NEAR
IT'S QUITE A WAYS UP.
WE'RE GETTING PRETTY DEEP INTO THE MOUNTAIN.

BUT LOOK, WE'RE COMING UP ON A SMALL VILLAGE
AND WHAT'S THAT SMALL FOREST THERE?
OH... PROBABLY A TOMB THERE SHOULD BE LOTS AROUND HERE
IT'LL BE HIDDEN BUT SHE SAID THERE SHOULD BE A SIGHT-SEEING AREA WE CAN CLIMB UP
Like before for the Yamato Sanzan
HEY, LOOK!
THAT'D BE THE STONE VESSEL RIGHT?

WHERE CAN WE GO TO FIND IT?
IF THIS ISN'T THE REFUGE,
NO GO, EH?
I CAN'T SENSE ANYTHING EITHER.
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THAT ISN'T A STAR.
WE CAN USE IT TO SEE IF THE REFUGE IS HERE
YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT A SIGHT-SEEING AREA?
AKIRA?
AH...!
BUT WHO COULD GET UP THERE?!
WE'VE GOT THE STONE VESSEL HERE RIGHT? ON TOP OF THAT'S GOTTA BE THE ONLY PLACE YOU COULD SEE FROM.
BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING LIKE THAT FROM HERE

THAT'S RIGHT! AN ONI COULD GET UP THERE
I'LL GO LOOK!
JUMP
IS THIS WHERE YOU FIND THE REFUGE FROM? A PLACE MADE SO THAT ONI COULD LOOK?
THEN WHAT CAN YOU SEE FROM HERE?! JUST WHAT—?

OH!
I CAN SEE QUITE A FEW OF THEM, THOUGH
...BURIAL MOUNDS?

A PENTA-GRAM?!
THE ROADS RUIN IT THOUGH
IF YOU DISCOUNT THOSE, THE MOUNDS FORM A STAR!
IS ... THE ENTRANCE TO THE REFUGE AT THE CENTER OF THOSE MOUNDS ...?!

I CAN FEEL IT.
SOKO?
I CAN FEEL IT!
THE SMELL OF PURE AIR.
THIS IS THE REFUGE
ALRIGHT, IF WE FOLLOW THAT WE'LL GET TO THE ENTRANCE.
GULP
IF IT'S THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE THEN WE'RE GOOD IF IT'S THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S, THEN WE'LL SEAL IT UP
IS THIS IT?
YEAH, THE AIR IS FLOWING OUT FROM AROUND THOSE ROOTS

CAN WE GET IN?
AKIRA, LOOK AT THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE STONES. IT'S PART OF THE TOMB
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO CLOSE TO CIVILIZATION, IT HASN'T BEEN DISCOVERED YET.
IF WE REALLY GO FOR IT, PROBABLY
IF SOKO COULDN'T SENSE THE FLOW OF AIR, WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND IT EITHER.
THERE'S A TUNNEL!
LOOKS LIKE IT'S CARVED UNDER-GROUND.
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
THANKS FOR LEADING ME HERE

YES!
IF THIS IS THE FAMILY OF THE SOUTH'S REFUGE, I'LL OBTAIN THE "SUZAKU'S" POWER!

IT'S A SMALL TOWN
GUYS RUNNING AROUND SEARCHING FOR ROCKS KINDA STAND OUT
I THOUGHT THE TRAIN WAS STOPPED?!
HIKO!
YEAH, BUT I COULDN'T JUST SIT THERE
THE POWER'S NEARLY MINE RIGHT, AKIRA?

HIKO!
AKIRA!
CRACK
THE—
THE TUNNEL'S COLLAPSING!!
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CLATTER
IF THIS IS THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE, I'LL OBTAIN THE POWER TO FACE TAKAO!

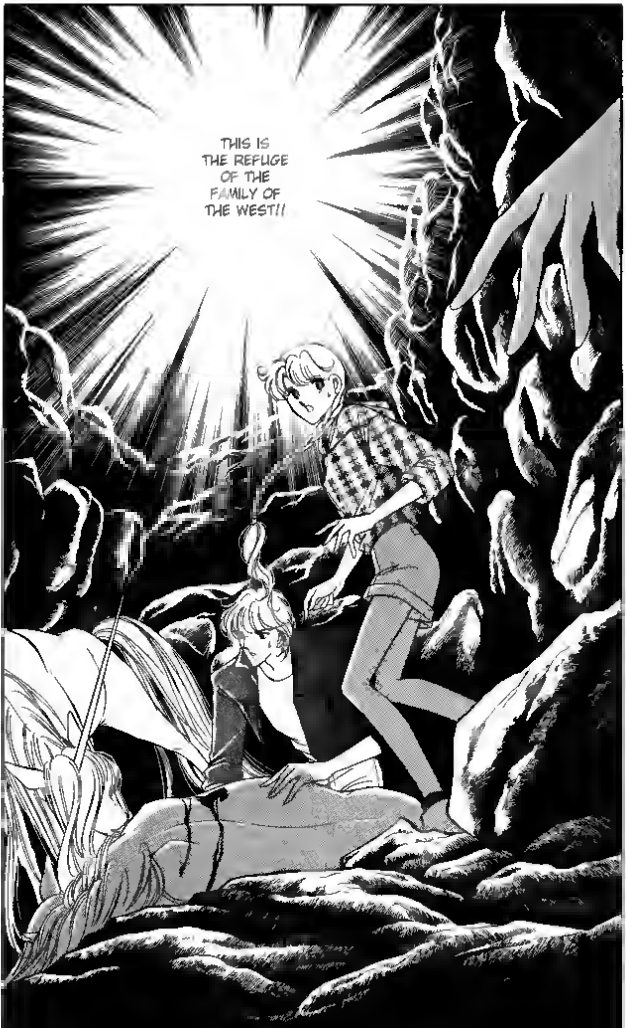
THUD
GRAB
SOKO!
THUD THUD
TAP
FWISH

OW
I... I'M FINE
ARE YOU HURT, AKIRA?
CRUSH
CRUSH
ARE YOU OKAY, SOKO?!
HONESTLY
THE "BYAKKO" MAKES UP FOR A LACK OF POWER WITH INCREDIBLY STRONG BAD LUCK
!!

TAKAO!
SORRY TO SAY THIS AFTER YOU CAME SO FAR,
BUT I'M NOT LETTING YOU INTO THIS REFUGE.
S L A M
AHH!
WHAT?!

DEMON MASK?!
OU...? AH?!
NO, THAT'S THE DEMON MASK THAT PROTECTS THIS REFUGE
OU?

THIS
IS THE WHITE DEMON MASK.
WHITE ?
WHITE IS THE FAMILY OF THE WEST...


THIS IS
THE REFUGE
OF THE
FAMILY OF
THE WEST!!

NOW THAT WE KNOW THAT, WE'RE GETTING IN NO MATTER WHAT.
THIS IS THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE!!

HOW WILL YOU DO THAT?
YOU DON'T KNOW THE INCANTATION
RAISE
SFX: BOOM
FLARE
HOW ABOUT YOU JUST BE GOOD AND GIVE UP?
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU NEED THE INCANTATION TO OPEN UP THE REFUGE!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO QUIT GETTING IN THE WAY!
キィィィ

G-GO RIGHT!
INTO THAT SIDE PASSAGE!
SFX: BOOM
I'LL BLOCK THE ENTRANCE

CIRCLE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TOMB! THERE'S ANOTHER ENTRANCE TO THE REFUGE FROM THERE!
LORD TAKAO!
WE'LL DRAG THE BYAKKO OUT OF THERE!

DOES... THIS CAVE LEAD TO THE CENTER OF THE REFUGE?
THANKS, OU YOU REALLY SAVED US
I DIDN'T DO ANYTKING
BUT, THE VOICE IN MY HEAD JUST NOW...
THAT WAS THE WHITE ONE
EH?!

HE'S ALIVE?!
SOKO
RUSTLE
YOU'RE... THE SOURYU
!!
THE GENBU... HE BROKE OFF MY HORN BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE IN FRONT OF KIM... SO I TOLD YOU THE PATH... THAT IS ALL.
A DEMON MASK CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT A HORN.
THERE IS NO NEED. I CANNOT BE SAVED...
RIP
RIP
I'M GOING TO PATCH YOU UP. SO KEEP STILL FOR NOW.
DON'T TALK

DEMON MASK, I'M THE BYAKKO. I CAME HERE TO RECEIVE MY POWER.
BUT I DON'T KNOW THE INCANTATION
IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN OPEN IT FOR ME?
...YOU'RE THE BYAKKO?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAVE TO OBTAIN THE BYAKKO'S TRUE POWER, NO MATTER WHAT
NO MATTER THE COST, I NEED IT TO KILL TAKAO.
AKIRA...

TO KILL THE GENBU YOU SAY..
IS THAT TRUE?!
IT'S TRUE!
I SWEAR WE'LL TAKE OUT YOUR ENEMY!
!!
THOSE WORDS... I'LL BELIEVE

THUD
AHHH!!
?!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?!

AMAZING... I CAN'T SEE THE BOTTOM
IS THIS... THE FAMILY OF THE WEST'S REFUGE?!
AKIRA CAN OBTAIN THE POWER TO BE THE TRUE BYAKKO
AND NOW...
IF YOU CANNOT SENSE...
THE CENTER POINT IN WHICH THE POWER IS GATHERED... THEN... YOU DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE THE POWER.

WAIT
I KNOW! IT'S—
THERE.
THAT COLUMN!

AKIRA... DO YOU FEEL ANYTHING?

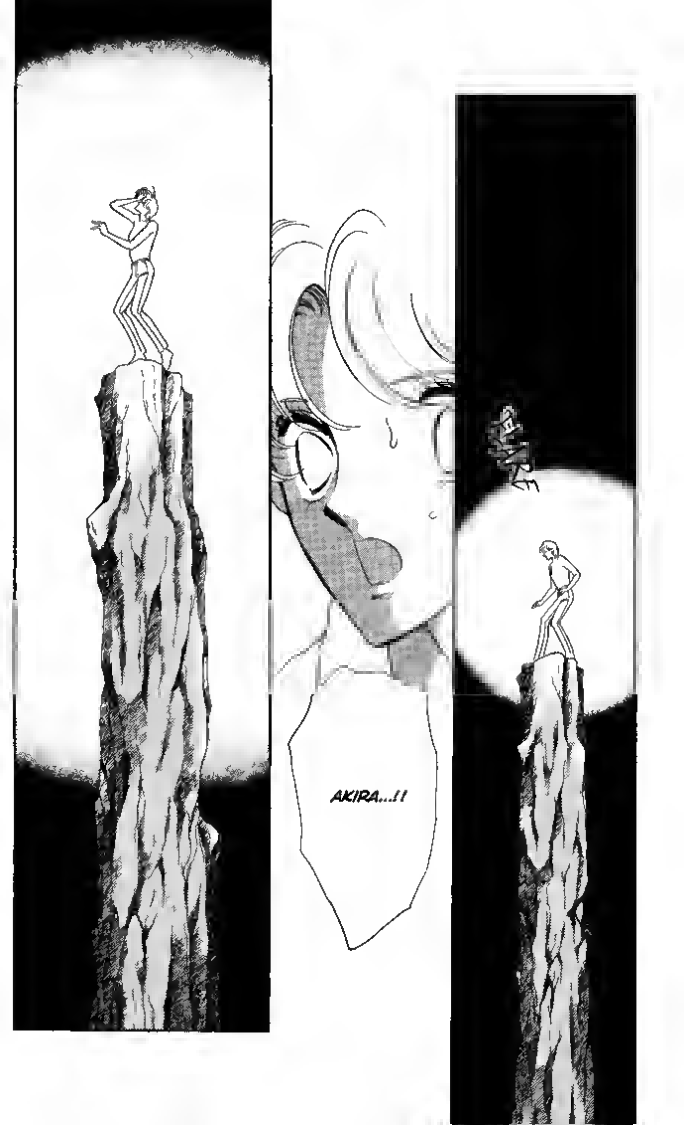
I CAN TELL IT'S CONCENTRATED HERE BUT...

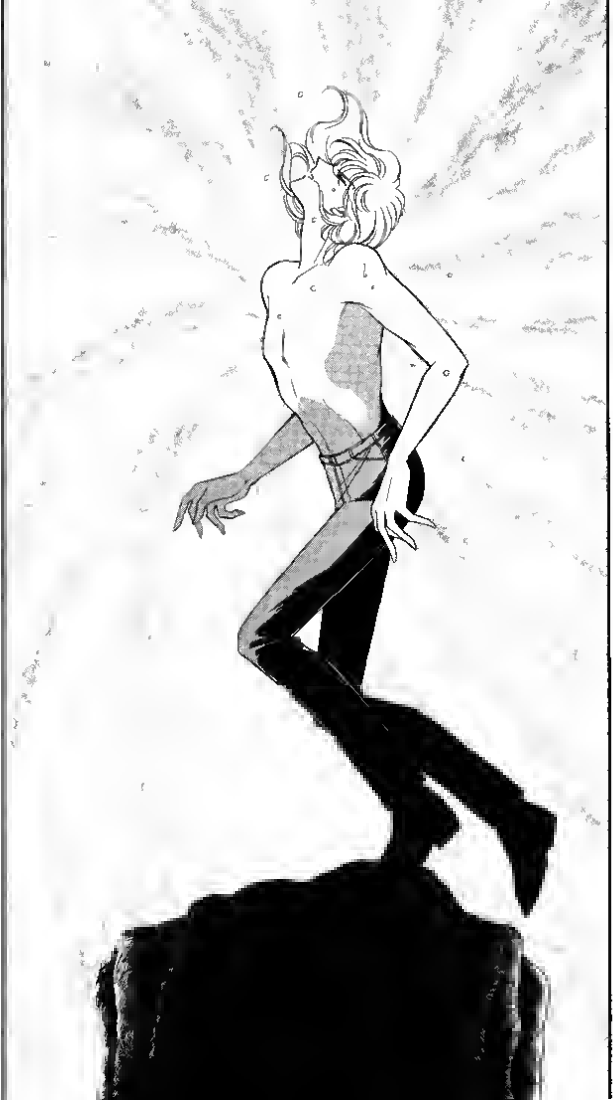
!

?!

AKIRA!

CLACK


AKIRA...!!



ナンテ
AKIRA, ARE YOU OKAY?! HOW DO YOU FEEL?!
Y... YEAH...
SO, HE RECEIVED HIS POWER?
JUST WHAT KIND OF POWER IS IT?

FLARE
?!
BOOM
AH!

TAP
AKIRA!!
SOKO!!
SIS!
!!
TAKAO!!
HIKO!!

!!
LOOK AT ALL OF THEM!
?!
GRAB

AKIRA?!
TURN
FLARE
FLARE
WHITE FLAMES?!

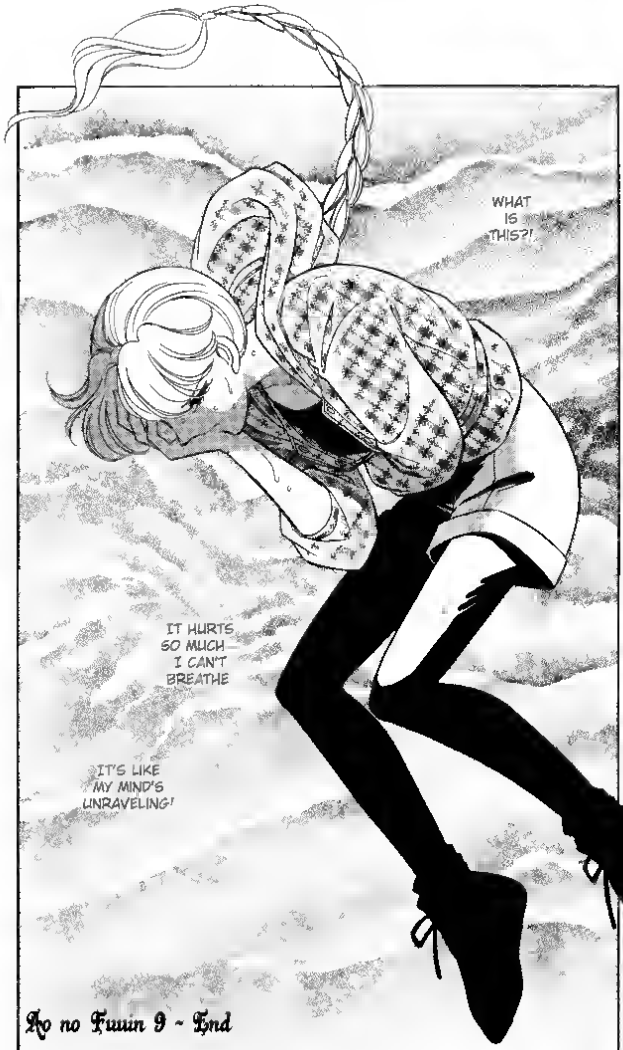
AKIRA?!

AHHH...!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
UGH...
GRAB

THAT'S INCREDIBLE! YOU GOT RID OF THE ONI WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING THEM!
IS THAT THE BYAKKO'S POWER?!
JOLT
AH...!
WOBBLE
...!!

WAY TO GO, AKIRA!
AT THIS RATE YOU'LL BURY THEM ALL!
THUD
!!

SOKO!!
—WHAT—



Ko no Fuuin 9 ~ End

FLOWER COMICS

蒼の封印 9

Chie Shinohara

篠原千絵

少コミ フラワーコミックス

フラワーコミックス

蒼の封印 9

篠原千絵

小学館
FC4329

ISBN4-09-134329-5

C9979 P390E

9784091343291

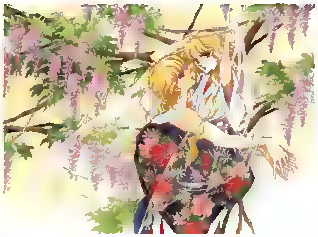
1919979003907

定価390円（本体379円）

雑誌 45153－29　小学館

●作品紹介

やっと鬼面獣を捕まえた蒼子だが、高雄の出現で再び危機に陥ってしまった。それでもスキをついて緋子を人質に取り、高雄に隠れ屋の扉を開けさせたのだが…。



少コミ
フラワーコミックス

Ao no Fuuin by: Chie Shinohara

"Blue Seal"

SCANNER: LADYNAGISA
TRANSLATOR: KALENDEL
EDITOR: LADYNAGISA
QC: KALENDEL

STORM IN HEAVEN
WWW.STORMINHEAVEN.NET